Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR, GE

SUBJECT: DIVISION OF IGS TRAFFIC BETWEEN

TEGEL/TEMPELHOF

REFS: (A) STATE 24782; (B) USBERLIN 208

- 1. SUMMARY: MISSION INFORMED SENAT AND ALLIED OFFICIALS CONSIDERATION BEING VIEN BY PANAM TO REMAINING AT TEMPELHOF. SENAT HAS REACTED NEGATIVELY, STATING THAT MOVE TO TEGEL IS SETTLED MATTER. BRITISH AND FRENCH ARE NON-COMMITTAL. PANAM TAKING INITIATIVE IN CONVINCING BA TO AGREE TO PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.
- 2. IN ACCORDANCE RAF A, ON FEB 4, WE INFORMED SENAT THAT BFG HAD SUGGESTED TO PANAM THAT IT MIGHT WANT TO LINK DIVISION OF TRAFFIC TO POSSIBILITY OF REMAINING AT TEMPELHOF. WE STRESSED THAT WE KNEW THIS WAS IDEA MAKING THE ROUNDS AND WE WANTED SENAT TO LEARN ABOUT IT FROM US RATHER THAN FROM PRESS. WE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO SUGGESTED SENAT MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER PROS AND

CONS OF SUCH APROPOSAL SHOULD IT EMERGE IN CONTEXT OF ROUTE DIVISION.

- 3. ON FEB 6 CHANCELRY CHIEF HERZ AND SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE TOLD LIAISON OFFICER THEY WERE SPEAKING FOR GOVMAYOR IN SAYING THAT MATTER IS SETTLED, CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED, AND PANAM IS EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY MADE. HERZ AND STOBBE SAID THAT THE SENAT WOULD REACT VERY NEGATIVELY IF THE MATTER SURFACED PUBLICLY (AS IT HAS -- SEE BELOW). IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION, HERZ EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ANY PROPOSAL TO KEEP PART OF THE IGS TRAFFIC AT TEMPELHOF WOULD BE POLITICALLY TROUBLESOME IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD.
- 4. HERZ AND STOBBE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BEING INFORMED ABOUT IDEA. THEY WERE STILL INDIGNANT THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ON ROUTE SWAP PROPOSAL AND STOBBE POINTED OUT FORCEFULLY THAT THE COMPETENT ORGANS IN BONN HAVE STILL NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR A FAR INCREASE, DESPITE WEEKS OF DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS.
- 5. BRITISH AND FRENCH POLADS HAVE TAKEN NON-COMMITTAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROPOSAL.
- 6. BA APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IDEA OF DIVISION OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN TWO AIRPORTS. WHEN PANAM DIRECTOR FOR GERMAN (RUNETTE) BROACHED IDEA FEB 5 TO BA OFFICIALS IN LONDON, THEY WERE INITIALLY TAKEN ABACK, BUT ON FEB 6 BA'S BERLIN MANAGER (GILLESPIE) TOLD PANAM THAT SINCE ROUTE SWAP AGREEMENT REACHED JAN 24, BA MANAGEMENT CONTEMPLATING REMAINING AT TEMPELHOF WHILE PANAM MOVED TO TEGEL. IF BA WERE TO MOVE ALONE TO TEGEL, GILLESPIE SAID, BA WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE PANAM'S SHARE (DM 5 MILLION) OF SENAT SUBSIDY FOR INCREASED FEES AND RENTALS.
- 7. AS REGARDS COMMITMENT TO TEGEL MOVE, PANAM MANAGEMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY EXISTING EXCHANGE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF LETTERS WITH BFG ON THIS SUBJECT. PANAM POINTS OUT IS CORRESPONDENCE SETS FURTHER IMPORTANT CONDITIONS INVOLVING OPERATIONAL READINESS OF TEGEL FACILITIES AND THAT CORRESPONDENCE IS NOT BINDING LEGAL COMMITMENT.

8 WE HAVE AGREED AMONG ALLIES TO PRESS LINE FOR USE HERE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS. QUOTE NO SUCH PROPOSAL

HAS YET BEEN COMMUNICATED OFFICIALLY TO THE ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN. UNQUOTE THIS LIMITED GUIDANCE, ON WHICH BRITISH INSIST, WILL NOT CARRY FAR AS DPA HAS STORY TO EFFECT THAT "ALLIES ARE NEGOTIATING WITH SENAT ON PROPOSAL." MISSION PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS TOLD DPA ON UNATTRIBUTED BASIS THAT THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN IDEA THAT IS BEING DISCUSSED IN AVIATION CIRCLES AT THIS TIME AND THAT WE HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION ON IT. GEORGE

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